



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **For Immediate Release**

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Date: July 23, 2009

### **Rialto Woman Charged with Auto Insurance Fraud**

San Bernardino, CA - On July 20, 2009, a felony warrant was issued for the arrest of Esther De Leon, 50, of Rialto, for four counts of insurance fraud, 550 (A) (1) PC and 550 (B) (1) PC and two counts of Perjury, 118 PC. She was located at her residence and taken into custody on July 22.

On November 7, 2007, De Leon was driving a Chevy Avalanche and stopped in heavy traffic in Fontana. Her car was struck in the rear by a San Bernardino County vehicle going a few miles an hour. There was minor damage to the Chevy and at the time of the accident, De Leon refused any medical attention.

Soon after the accident, De Leon began to see several doctors claiming the traffic accident caused numerous major medical problems. She obtained an attorney and they sued the County of San Bernardino. A doctor hired by the county examined her and could find nothing wrong with her. The county also hired a private investigator who followed her and taped her daily activities. She had given a deposition stating she could not work, go out of her house, pick up her grandchild, or even comb her hair because one of her medical complaints was, her right arm was numb. The investigators found her working at a dry cleaner's and lifting heavy objects without any noticeable problems.

De Leon was booked into West Valley Detention Center and bail was set at \$50,000.

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